

**REMARKS**

Claims 2-4, 6-8, 10, 11, 13-18, 21-28 and 30-39 are pending in the instant application and are subject to a Restriction Requirement as well as an election of species. Claims 27, 28 and 37 have been amended. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these requirements and allowance of the pending claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment to Claims 27 and 28 overcomes the objection to these claims.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, Group 1, Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 13, 15, 16, 17, 32, 35, 38 and 39. Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 37 should also be included in the elected Group I.

In response to the Election of Species, Applicants hereby elect a polymer species from Claim 2 comprising EPDM which reads upon all of the elected claims.

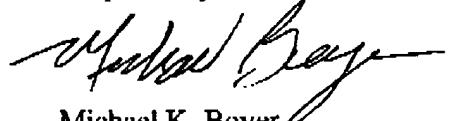
Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement and Election of Species. Applicants respectfully submit that there is no undue burden upon the Patent Office to continue to examine the pending claims. The burden, if any, upon the Patent Office is outweighed by the negative impact of further delaying prosecution of the instant application. It is noted that the instant application has been pending since February 02, 2001 and several Office Actions on the merits have already been issued to the pending claims.

This Application is also related to continuing patent application Serial No. 10/375,555 filed on February 26, 2003 (confirmation no 9127). Applicants respectfully request consideration of this patent application as well as the references cited therein.

Applicants believe that the pending claims define patentable subject matter and respectfully request issuance of a Notice of Allowability. Should there be any

other fee due in connection with this application, please charge the same to Deposit Account No. 15-0680 (ORSCHELN MANAGEMENT CO.). Should the Examiner deem that any further action on the part of Applicants would advance prosecution, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' attorney.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael K. Boyer  
Attorney for Applicants  
U.S.P.T.O. Reg. No. 33,085  
Tel: 660 269-4536  
Fax: 660 269-4530  
mboyer@orscheln.com

Encl.: Certificate of Facsimile Transmission Dated:

